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BC votes 2017

Greens could play 'startling' role in election

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

A historic surge of Green-leaning voters could make for surprising last-minute results on May 9, a leading pollster suggested.

A Forum Research survey suggested the third-place Green Party of B.C. would now get the vote of one-in-five people.

"That's startling," said Forum president Lorne Bozinoff in a phone interview last week. "The Green Party is very, very high at 18 per cent — they didn't get anywhere near that last time."

But does that mean Weaver could actually lead more than a party of one into the Legislature after May 9? Not necessarily, Bozinoff cautioned, which could make for a very interesting and unpredictable race.

"Sometimes the third party's support melts as you get closer to election day," he explained, "because if they feel their candidate can't win in our first-past-the-post system, they might think, 'Am I wasting my vote? Maybe I should vote for whoever I think has a chance of winning.'

"It also tells us that a lot of people aren't thrilled with the two main parties."

Forum's results are no anomaly. Other pollsters have noted a similar Green surge in recent weeks.

The still-leaderless B.C. Conservatives, meanwhile, polled at 12 per cent, Forum found.

KEEP ON SHREDDIN'

Grouse Mountain plans to stay open until the end of the month

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‘Every language is valuable’

EDUCATION

Tandem UBC world’s largest using growing teaching model

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

In the six years since Tandem UBC — a partner-based conversational language program — launched at the University of British Columbia, its directors never expected to see it become the largest “tandem”-style program in the world.

They only discovered how big they’d grown recently at an international conference in Paris of others providing the hands-on, peer-led style of learning around the world.

“We learned we’re by far the largest program they’d ever heard of,” said Marie Shuman in a phone interview. “Most of the others had maximum 50 participants exchanging maybe four languages.

“But we’ve had more than 500 participants learning 23 languages. That’s huge!

We always thought our program was doing alright, but turns out it’s gigantic.”

On Tuesday evening, the program for UBC students, faculty and staff will hold a workshop to share a report-back from the Paris conference, as well as Shuman’s own thesis research on the tandem model of language learning.

Students at UBC participate in a language exchange offered by Tandem UBC, using an innovative learning model in which partners are paired by an online algorithm and converse with each other in their own languages. CONTRIBUTED

Tandem, explained fellow Tandem UBC facilitator Franny Varty, is very different from more traditional language programs.

It pairs up speakers of multiple languages using an online algorithm based on what students can teach, and what language they hope to learn.

Once matched, they’re offered worksheets to spark conversation, or can set out on their own with a partner who speaks a language they want to learn themselves, even if it’s neither’s mother tongue.

This year, the program — which was founded in 2011 by educator Mary Leighton, who now leads the independent Language Partners B.C. — offered an even-faster “speed dating” option for faster language pairing.

“We’ve both taken higher-level French courses at UBC,” explained Varty.

“What’s different about them is you don’t get as many opportunities for in-depth discussions.

“So not only do you have the chance to make new friends (in Tandem), being one-on-one makes people more comfortable and more confident, without the classroom pressure.”

Tandem’s principles, she explained, centre around students’ independence in how they learn and teach each other, and the belief that “every language is valuable.”

> **Being one-on-one makes people more comfortable and more confident, without the classroom pressure.** Franny Varty

WORKSHOP

Featuring a free Syrian dinner, Tandem UBC’s workshop on Intercultural and Interlingual Learning and Language Exchange will be held Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at UBC’s Lee Global Lounge and Resource Centre (2205 Lower Mall).

For more information, visit tandem.ubc.ca.

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A memorable ski season shows no signs of slowing down, leading Grouse Mountain to extend its operations to the end of April.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grouse Mountain extends ski season

RECREATION

'Great snow conditions' mean runs open until April 30

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Edmonton

The winter skiing season on the North Shore hills has been so good, Grouse Mountain doesn't want the party to stop.

The operators of the mountain resort announced Monday that their winter ski season will remain open until at least April 30 thanks to a mid-mountain base of 330 centimetres.

All downhill runs are operational on the mountain, which has received more than 11 metres of snowfall this winter.

"We've had a fantastic season so far," said Grouse spokesperson Julia Grant.

"We've got great snow conditions right now and we're looking forward to some more of those sunny spring days on the mountain. We're hoping to go into May, but we'll keep an eye on conditions and see how that goes. There's no specific end (to the season)."

Grouse made the announcement to extend its winter operations as locals enjoyed their final day of runs on Cypress and Seymour.

Both mountains shut down for the winter after Easter Monday despite good conditions.

Seymour still had a base of 726 centimetres at its summit as it closed down for the season.

"Those are definitely incredible conditions. That's not going to melt anytime soon, I think," said Seymour spokesperson Sandra Kadel. "It was an amazing season, I have to say. We had a lot of record numbers, days with so much snow the kind we haven't seen in the last 10 years or so."

> **We had a lot of record numbers, days with so much snow the kind we haven't seen in the last 10 years or so.**
> Sandra Kadel

Even as Seymour wound-down this weekend with its annual spring-themed Puddle Party — which has snowboarders riding across a pond of water — to mark the end of the season, the mountain was blasted by a fresh snowstorm.

The only thing that put a damper on celebrations, Kadel said, was the Mystery Chair going down for repairs just before the final weekend.

Still, the season is a far cry from just two years ago, when an unseasonably warm and wet winter meant Seymour could only operate for 12 days total and Cypress and Grouse were struggling to maintain any rideable terrain and offered visitors huge discounts on their lift passes.

Even out-of-town resorts of Vancouver Island's Mount Washington called an end to its season by early February that year.

This year, Mount Washington extended its winter season by an additional weekend, to April 9.

The downhill season at Whistler Blackcomb is ongoing.

While runs on Whistler Mountain are scheduled to close April 23, the resort anticipates Blackcomb to be open through May 22.

KOOTENAY LAKE

Officials urge caution after ferry spills oil

Health officials are urging people in British Columbia's Interior to stay clear of a shoreline along Kootenay Lake after a ferry spilled about 400 litres of oil into the water.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment says the Kootenay Balfour Ferry was reported on Saturday to be leaking gear oil near the Balfour Terminal along the lake's western edge, northeast of Nelson.

Interior Health is cautioning people to avoid using a 400-metre stretch of shoreline next to the ferry terminal, saying the spill has affected the area and visitors should not go into the water.

The ministry says the spill resulted in a rainbow sheen extending about 400 metres from the spill site.

No oiled wildlife has been reported.

It says the oil was recovered on Saturday, but pea-sized globules continue to leak from under the vessel and are being captured by booms.

The health authority says the spill does not appear to have affected drinking water intakes in the area.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Home values see decline: Survey

REAL ESTATE

Foreign buyer's tax, eroding affordability cooled market

Jeff Hodson
Metro | Vancouver

Home values across Metro Vancouver saw their first quarterly loss since 2013, according to a Royal LePage house price survey released Tuesday morning.

The region's aggregate home price (a weighted average of median home prices by property type) dropped 1.9 per cent in the first quarter of 2017.

In a statement, Randy Ryalls, general manager of Royal LePage Stirling Realty, said the Metro Vancouver foreign buyer tax and eroding affordability cooled the market, but speculated the price drop may have bottomed out.

"We are starting to see signs of a quicker-than-anticipated rebound in many regions across Greater Vancouver," said Ryalls. "If the number of listings remains critically low during the spring market, we could very well see another round of significant price appreciation as prospective homeowners continue to snap out of a policy-induced lull and rush back into the market."

Year-over-year values for two-storey detached houses in Greater Vancouver increased 10 per cent from 2016.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

The number of sales has decreased compared to the same time last year, the report said.

In the first three months of 2017 the median price for a two-storey home in the region dropped to $1,503,146, down from $1,604,757 in the final three months of 2016. Over the same period, the median price for a one-storey bungalow dropped to $1,360,320 from $1,386,240 while the median price for a condominium increased to $543,136, up from $529,912.

Year-over-year prices, however, saw substantial increases across all three categories. Two-storey detached homes increased 10.3 per cent when compared to the first quarter of 2016; bungalows increased 17.1 per cent and condos increased 14 per cent.

According to the survey, in the City of Vancouver, the median price of a two-storey detached home is $2,345,272; the median price of a bungalow is $1,304,675; and the median price condominium is $658,775.

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Clark's job boasting not full story

BC Votes 2017

Premier proud of B.C. jobless rate but rural areas suffering

Liberal Leader Christy Clark, centre, makes crepes with local candidate Michelle Stilwell during a campaign stop on Monday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Christy Clark often highlights the fact British Columbia has the lowest jobless rate in Canada, but rural and remote areas in the province are struggling with major industry downturns and job losses.

The power of jobs to support families and build strong communities is a major theme in the Liberal leader's bid for re-election on May 9, but some mayors say high unemployment is tearing at the fabric of their communities.

"I would challenge this government to really open its eyes and look at what's going on in our small community," said Shirley Ackland, the mayor of Port McNeill in northern Vancouver Island. "You can't live in the north island if there are no jobs here."

She said sawmill closures have hurt Port McNeill, where 80 per cent of residents are dependent on the forest industry for work. Merritt Mayor Neil Menard said a sawmill closure and layoffs at another lumber mill resulted in the loss of about 350 jobs in the past 18 months.

"The situation here in this particular area as far as employment is concerned is not good," he said. "I don't think we have the best economy in the country. In the Interior, we've got a lot of struggles going on."

Last month, Clark was in Merritt to introduce the government's rural economic development strategy, which included $40 million to expand high-speed internet service and build infrastructure in rural B.C.

Steve Thomson, forests, lands and natural resource operations minister, said the government's strategy recognizes the significance of rural communities to B.C.'s economy, mentioning the Site C dam, potential liquefied natural gas projects and the emergence of a technology sector as job creators.

"Every community benefits when our rural communities are strong," he said.

Thomson said the strategy is focused on building, strengthening and diversifying rural economies, which is especially the case with the forest industry and B.C.'s attempts to develop new lumber markets in Asia. A renewed Canada-United States softwood lumber agreement is another top priority, Thomson said.

The government's 2017-18 budget, which was not passed by the legislature, also included an extension to 2020 of an annual $25 million dividend fund for rural community projects.

> **The situation here in this particular area as far as employment is concerned is not good.**
>
> Merritt Mayor Neil Menard

But Fort Nelson Mayor Bill Streeper said the rural strategy failed to recognize the prolonged downturn in the oil and gas industry, which is causing people to leave town to look for work. He said the council of the Northern Rockies Regional Municipality recently introduced severe austerity measures to curtail community spending, including offering its summer student jobs to unemployed local residents.

Since January, when BC Stats pegged the jobless rate in the northeast at 10.5 per cent, the picture has brightened with an upswing in the oil and gas industry. The most recent numbers for March set the jobless rate in the region at 6.5 per cent.

But the rate jumped to 10 per cent in the Cariboo region. The North Coast-Nechako, Thompson-Okanagan and Kootenay regions all registered slight dips, but still range between 6.4 per cent and 8.3 per cent.

The provincewide rate was 5.4 per cent in March. It's five per cent in the Lower Mainland and southwest B.C., and 5.6 per cent on Vancouver Island and the central coast. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prescription for doctor shortage

BC Votes 2017

Horgan hits Liberal sore point, says that urgent-care centres would ensure access

New Democrat Leader John Horgan took aim on Monday at the Liberals' failed pledge to match every British Columbian with a family doctor by promoting his party's strategy to build team-based urgent-care centres.

The centres would be open evenings and weekends and would allow patients to see the care provider that fits their needs, whether it's a doctor, nurse practitioner or counsellor, Horgan said at a campaign stop ahead of the May 9 election.

Horgan said Christy Clark's Liberals are letting down patients, who are waiting for hours at walk-in clinics or emergency rooms. The NDP said 700,000 people don't have a family doctor, with 200,000 still looking for one.

"It's a fundamental right in Canada to access our public health-care system. I will defend that to my last breath," Horgan said.

The NDP leader made the promise in Burnaby, flanked by two local residents who can't find a family doctor. Sky Belt said her friend visited walk-in clinics several times for pain and was told she had anxiety before she was finally diagnosed with cancer.

"Those months that she spent not having a family doctor have made her situation very critical," Belt said.

The Liberals estimated in 2013 that 200,000 British Columbians didn't have a family doctor. They campaigned in 2010 and 2013 on providing a family doctor to every resident who wanted one by 2015, but conceded two years ago they would not meet their target.

The website for the "GP For Me" program says 178,000 people who did not have a family doctor were able to get one by 2016. But B.C.'s population also grew by 162,600 between 2013 and 2016.

NDP Leader John Horgan speaks to supporters during a campaign stop in Coquitlam on Monday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Liberal platform includes $2.7 billion for new hospitals, 500 additional long-term care beds and 5,500 more hip and knee surgeries.

Horgan's promise was short on details, with no specific number of urgent-care centres an NDP government would build or a cost estimate. He said the party would shift priorities to make room in the existing health budget.

"We want to assemble those teams in a cost-effective way," he said.

Campaigning in Campbell River, Clark highlighted her government's record on helping business, such as phasing out the provincial sales tax on electricity that she said would save businesses $160 million a year, including pulp and paper companies on north Vancouver Island.

Vancouver Island has been a stronghold for the NDP but Clark said the island has a successful economic record because of Liberal policies. She said the unemployment rate on the north island is half of what it was under the last NDP government.

"We've supported the private sector in creating thousands of jobs here and I don't think people, whether in the south island, the mid-island or the north island, want to give up that prosperity. We want to keep this going," she said.

Green party Leader Andrew Weaver, who is campaigning on a promise to "do politics differently," unveiled his party's platform on democratic reform.

He said his party would establish a public watchdog to oversee government advertising and communications, block cabinet ministers from engaging in partisan fundraising, ban corporate, union and out-of-province donations, and place limits on individual contributions that would be in line with current federal limits. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘Ask for help once ... get help fast’: NDP

BC Votes 2017

Party pledges ministry for mental health and addictions

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

New Democrats are hoping to make British Columbia’s mental-health crisis — including an opioid overdose epidemic that’s killed nearly 1,000 residents in the past year — a campaign issue ahead of the May 9 provincial election.

The Official Opposition pledged on Monday to create an entirely new government ministry to deal with both mental health and addictions issues, which experts say are closely connected.

“After years of B.C. Liberal neglect, we will improve B.C.’s mental health system by increasing access and investing in early prevention and intervention,” NDP leader John Horgan said in a press release. “People need to know they only have to ask for help once to get help fast.”

Riverview Hospital in Coquitlam. METRO FILE

At a media event in Coquitlam on Monday, Horgan promised to increase mental-health professionals available to teens in high schools, as well as “re-opening” the mostly shuttered residential mental health operations that for decades operated at Riverview.

That promise earned a swift rebuke from the governing B.C. Liberals, who issued a statement criticizing Horgan’s promises as “empty” and completely lacking in a price tag — an example of what spokesperson Alexis Pavlich called “a pattern of Horgan saying one thing and doing another.”

The NDP, the Liberals said, “have not included one single penny in the costing of their so-called platform” of the Riverview promise.

“(It) is completely disingenuous,” stated BC Liberal campaign co-chair Rich Coleman, who until the election writ dropped last week served as deputy premier. “Grandiose, empty promises with zero dollars to pay for them, which can only result in higher taxes.”

The Liberals also criticized the NDP’s call “for a return to mass hospitalization” at Riverview, where several of the aging buildings have been condemned and contain toxic asbestos insulation.

But nevertheless the Liberals have also promised to redevelop Riverview Lands in Coquitlam, promising their own 105-bed, $100-million treatment facility to open there in two years.

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Polygamy trial set to begin

COURT

Judge dismisses request for separate trials for two accused

A decades-long legal battle culminates in British Columbia on Tuesday with the start of a trial for a breakaway Mormon leader charged with polygamy.

Winston Blackmore of Bountiful is accused of having two dozen wives over a 25-year period.

The legal battle dates back to the early 1990s when police first investigated allegations that residents of an isolated religious community were practising multiple or "celestial" marriages.

A lack of clarity around Canada's polygamy laws led to failed attempts at prosecuting Blackmore, followed by several efforts to clarify the legislation, including a reference question to the B.C. Supreme Court. The court ruled in 2011 that laws banning polygamy were constitutional and did not violate religious freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Blackmore is not the only Bountiful-area resident who has been charged. James Oler will face trial alongside Blackmore for allegedly marrying four women between 1993 and 2009.

None of the allegations have been proven in court and the case is being heard by judge alone.

A school is situated at the base of a giant rock face in the polygamous community of Bountiful. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oler was appointed to lead Bountiful following Blackmore's excommunication from the Mormon splinter group in 2002 by Warren Jeffs, head prophet of U.S.-based Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints.

Last week, Justice Sheri Ann Donegan of the B.C. Supreme Court dismissed a request from Blackmore's lawyer, Blair Suffredine, to hold separate trials for Blackmore and Oler.

Suffredine argued the polygamy charges involve separate and different allegations. If tried together, evidence against Oler could be prejudicial to Blackmore and vice versa, he said.

Peter Wilson, a special prosecutor appointed by the provincial government, argued that expert evidence was going to be called from witnesses in the United States and that it wouldn't make sense to have them come to Canada again for a second trial.

Donegan said she wanted to "balance the interests of the public and the accused" and was not persuaded that the trial needed to be separated. She is expected to give her full reasons for the decision before the trial begins Tuesday.

The trial in Cranbrook is expected to last several weeks.

Suffredine said in an interview there's no question surrounding the validity of Canada's polygamy laws, but rather whether his client is entitled to an exemption for religious reasons.

"The dilemma is this, put simply: if you went out and slept with 20 women and made kids with each one of them, but then ran away and didn't pay for them, you would not have committed any crime," he said.

"But if you go through a ceremony where you promise to live with her or look after her and the children all your life, now you've committed a crime."

Oler doesn't have a lawyer for the trial. An impartial adviser has been appointed to assist the court and provide balance. Wilson declined comment before the trial.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The ice-walled canyon at the terminus of the Kaskawulsh Glacier, with collapsed ice blocks. The canyon now carries meltwater toward the Pacific Ocean. JIM BEST/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A first case of 'river piracy'

YUKON

Once-raging Slims River now shallow and nearly dry

Scientists have witnessed the first modern case of what they call "river piracy" and they blame global warming. Most of the water gushing from a large glacier in northwest Canada last year suddenly switched from one river to another.

That changed the Slims River from a three-metre deep, raging river to something so shallow that it barely was above a scientist's high top sneakers at midstream. The melt from the Yukon's Kaskawulsh glacier now flows mostly into the Alsek River and ends up in the Pacific Ocean instead of the Arctic's Bering Sea.

It seemed to all happen in about one day — last May 26 — based on river gauge data, said Dan Shugar, a University of Washington Tacoma professor who studies how land changes. A 30-metre-tall canyon formed at the end of the glacier, rerouting the melting water, Shugar and his colleagues wrote in a study published in Monday's journal Nature Geoscience.

The term "river piracy" is usually used to describe events that take a long time to occur, such as tens of thousands of years, and had not been seen in modern times, especially not this quickly, said study co-author Jim Best of the University of Illinois.

The scientists had been to the edge of the Kaskawulsh glacier in 2013. Then the Slims River was "swift, cold and deep" and flowing fast enough that it could be dangerous to wade through, Shugar said. They returned last year to find the river shallow and as still as a lake, while the Alsek was deeper and flowing faster.

"We were really surprised when we got there and there was basically no water in the river," Shugar said of the Slims. "We could walk across it and we wouldn't get our shirts wet. It was like a snake-shaped lake rather than a river."

What had been a river delta at the edge of the Slims River had changed into a place full of "afternoon dust storms with this fine dust getting into your nose and your mouth," Best said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL

Air Canada apologizes for bumping boy from flight

Air Canada has apologized to a Prince Edward Island family after the airline bumped a 10-year-old boy from a flight.

Brett Doyle booked four tickets from Charlottetown to Costa Rica for his family last August.

A day before their March break vacation, Doyle said he tried to check in his family online, but he could not select a seat for his son.

After hours on the phone with Air Canada, Doyle's wife drove to the airport and was told the flight was oversold and their son had been bumped.

The family then drove to Moncton to catch a different Air Canada flight to meet the Costa Rica flight in Montreal, but when that flight was cancelled they were forced to drive to Halifax and stay overnight in a hotel. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Warm summer means higher risk of forest fires

Nearly a year after the wildfire that devastated Fort McMurray, a climate scientist says there may be more ahead.

"If the forecast's right that it's a warmer than normal summer, we'll probably have more fires," says Mike Flannigan, a meteorologist and professor at the University of Alberta.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police baffled by Facebook killing

CRIME

'I snapped,' said Steve Stephens after killing a Cleveland man

In a rambling video, Steve Stephens said, "I snapped, I just snapped." But as the manhunt dragged on Monday for the man accused of posting Facebook footage of himself killing a Cleveland retiree, police were unable to explain what set him off.

"Only Steve knows that," Cleveland police Chief Calvin Williams said as authorities posted a $50,000 reward for Stephens' capture in the shooting of Robert Godwin Sr., a 74-year-old former foundry worker.

In the video, Stephens blamed a former girlfriend he had lived with, saying he woke up last week and "couldn't take it anymore." But in a statement Monday, the woman shed little light on what might have gone wrong and said Stephens was good to her and her children.

As for the shooting victim, Godwin appeared to have been selected at random, gunned down while picking up aluminum cans Sunday afternoon after spending Easter with some of his children.

Steve Stephens CLEVELAND POLICE

Robert Godwin Sr.
FACEBOOK VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A manhunt that started in Cleveland's gritty east side expanded rapidly into a nationwide search for Stephens, a 37-year-old job counsellor who worked with teens and young adults, police said.

"He could be nearby. He could be far away or anywhere in between," FBI agent Stephen Anthony said.

Law enforcement officials said his cellphone signal was last detected on Sunday afternoon in Erie, Pa., about 160 kilometres east of Cleveland.

Police reported getting dozens and dozens of tips, and nine schools in Philadelphia were locked down Monday while authorities investigated possible sightings of Stephens. But they said there was no sign he was actually there.

Some of those who know Stephens described him as pleasant and kind, while some said he had a gambling problem. He filed for bankruptcy two years ago.

Godwin's daughter said he was killed while collecting cans in a plastic shopping bag.

"Not because he needed the money, it was just something he did," said 52-year-old Debbie Godwin. "That's all he was doing. He wasn't harming anyone."

She said her father, who had 10 children, was a gentle man.

In the shooting video, Stephens told Godwin a woman's name and said, "She's the reason that this is about to happen to you." The victim did not seem to recognize the woman's name.

The woman Stephens spoke of, Joy Lane, said in a text to CBS that "we had been in a relationship for several years. I am sorry that all of this has happened."

The video of the killing was on Facebook for about three hours before it was taken down.

Investigators said that Godwin was the only victim so far linked to Stephens, despite his claim in a separate video on Facebook that he killed over a dozen people.

Detectives spoke with Stephens on Sunday by cellphone and tried to persuade him to surrender, police said.

Stephens worked at Beech Brook, a social service agency in suburban Cleveland that deals with vulnerable young people. He helped them gain job skills and find employment, said Beech Brook spokeswoman Nancy Kortemeyer.

An extensive background check before he was hired turned up nothing worrisome, she said.

Stephens filed for bankruptcy in January 2015. His attorney at the time, Trent Binger, said Monday that he remembered Stephens discussing gambling problems.

"He was an easy client to deal with," Binger said. "Always respectful to me ... well-mannered."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> He could be nearby. He could be far away or anywhere in between.
> Stephen Anthony

IN BRIEF

U.S. bombing in Afghanistan 'an immense atrocity'

Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Monday that the U.S. is using Afghanistan as a weapons testing ground, calling the recent use of the largest-ever non-nuclear bomb "an immense atrocity against the Afghan people."

Karzai said his country "was used very disrespectfully by the U.S. to test its weapons of mass destruction."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

POSTCARD NO. 77

NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.

IT WAS MY FIRST MORNING AT NIAGARA FALLS. WAKING UP IN THE SUNLIGHT, I OPENED MY EYES AND SAW THIS MATER PIECE OF NATURE AND IT TOTALLY TOOK AWAY MY BREATH. **ELAINE LI**

SEND US YOUR POSTCARD

Each day until July 1, Metro will feature one reader's postcard in our editions across the country, on Metronews.ca and our 150postcards Instagram page. Get involved by sending us a photo of your favourite place in Canada along with 25 to 50 words about why that place is special to you. Email us at **scene@metronews.ca** or post to Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag **#150postcards**.

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WHITE HOUSE A DAY OF FESTIVITIES Children participate in an Easter egg roll race during the 139th Annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Pyongyang not ruffled by tensions

NORTH KOREA

People remain confident amid threat of war

The clouds of war, it might seem, are gathering around the Korean Peninsula.

The North Korean government flaunts an increasingly sophisticated arsenal of intercontinental missiles and launches a midrange version, which apparently fails seconds after takeoff.

The U.S. moves an immense warship to the waters off the peninsula in a display of military might.

President Donald Trump warns he's ready to "solve North Korea," while North Korea's deputy foreign minister says his country will conduct its next nuclear test whenever it sees fit.

And in Pyongyang, where war would mean untold horrors, where neighbourhoods could be reduced to rubble and tens of thousands of civilians could be killed, few people seem to care much at all.

On Sunday, the city's zoo was crowded, playgrounds were full of children and families strolled along downtown streets speckled with the blossoms of apricot trees.

In a country where the propaganda is all-encompassing, and where the same family has held power for three generations, every display mixed bright flowers with reminders of Kim Il Sung or the nation that his grandson, Kim Jong Un, now rules.

So there were dioramas of Kim Il Sung's birthplace, photos of him meeting foreign leaders, paintings of new housing developments — and models of missiles.

And there was Chong Ok An, a retiree. "We're not afraid," she said.

"As long as we have Marshal Kim Jong Un we can win any fight." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVEL

United changes bumping policy

United Airlines is changing a company policy and will no longer allow crew members to displace customers already onboard an airplane.

The change comes after a passenger, Dr. David Dao, was dragged from a fully-booked United Express flight in Chicago because he refused to give up his seat to make room for crew.

Under the change outlined in an internal April 14 email, a crew member must make must-ride bookings at least 60 minutes prior to departure.

United spokeswoman Maggie Schmerin said Sunday the change is an initial step in a review of policies and it's meant to ensure that situations like Dao's never happen again. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators protest outside the United terminal at O'Hare Airport on April 11 in Chicago. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

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Many want the federal government to step in

HOUSING

Poll shows support for Ottawa cooling hot market

A new poll by Campaign Research shows that 58 per cent of Canadians want Ottawa to intervene in the rising cost and steep competition for real estate.

The finding comes as the Toronto region continued to show double-digit price gains in the first three months of the year, according to a quarterly report by Royal LePage.

"There's no doubt there definitely is an appetite among people in Toronto and British Columbia generally to see some movement of some form of government intervention," said Eli Yufest, CEO of Campaign Research.

The online study, conducted between April 3 and 11, shows younger people are most likely to support government intervention.

About 70 per cent of respondents aged 18 to 35 agreed the government should step in.

A foreign buyers tax, such as the one implemented last year in Vancouver, is the preferred mechanism for tamping down soaring prices, according to 39 per cent of national poll respondents.

A vacant homes tax is the best course according to 13 per cent of Canadians favoured that option.

Eleven per cent of all respondents favoured tighter mortgage rules. Seven per cent said the government should do nothing and 15 per cent said they didn't know.

The poll surveyed 1,970 respondents across Canada and is considered accurate within two per cent 19 times out of 20.

Royal LePage CEO Phil Soper doesn't support government intervention. But if they are going to act, politicians should avoid policies that are aimed only at tempering prices and, instead, consider measures that have broader objectives, he said.

Vancouver, the most obvious example of foreign buyer and vacant home taxes, is showing signs of rebounding, said Soper.

Soper says the correction cycle could be over as early as this summer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Younger people are most likely to support government intervention, a new poll by Campaign Research shows. THE CANADIAN PRESS

BY THE NUMBERS

39%	65%	41%
A foreign buyers tax is the preferred mechanism for tamping down soaring prices, according to 39 per cent of national poll respondents.	Canadians aged 18 to 44, who agree the government should try and cool the property markets, compared to 52% of those over age 44.	Canadians with incomes between $20,000-$60,000 who believe government should impose a foreign buyers tax, compared to 38% of those with income over $60,000.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kids pick TV, new study finds

Grace Ellis has never known a time when you needed a TV to watch TV. The fifth-grader watches shows on her laptop, iPad and phone. She has a TV in her bedroom that isn't hooked up to cable but is perfect for watching DVDs.

Ever since freckle-faced puppet Howdy Doody ushered in children's television nearly 70 years ago, each new generation of viewers has been treated to a growing bounty of programs on a mushrooming selection of gadgetry. But nothing compares to the current wave: "The generation coming up now is used to having everything at their fingertips," says Stacey Lynn Schulman, an analyst at the Katz Media Group.

Why not? From birth, theirs has been a world of video digitally issuing from every screen.

Even so, it may be surprising that children nonetheless watch most television on, well, a television. As in: old-fashioned linear, while-it's-actually-airing telecasts.

A new Nielsen study finds that in the fourth quarter of 2016, viewers aged 2-11 averaged about 17 hours of live (not time-shifted) TV each week.

Granted, that's a drop of about 90 minutes weekly from the year before. But by comparison, kids in the fourth quarter of 2016 spent about 4-1/2 hours weekly watching video content on other devices.

"Linear TV is still the lion's share of where kids' time is spent," says Jane Gould, senior vice-president for consumer insights for Disney Channel. "But it's important for us to be in all the other places where they are, as well."

One reason: Those other outlets can pave the way for a new program's arrival on linear TV.

Gould points to Andi Mack, an ambitious comedy-drama that debuted on Disney Channel on April 7. Weeks before it landed there, the series could be sampled on digital platforms. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUTOMOTIVE

Fuelling stations hold up hydrogen fuel cell cars

Hydrogen fuel cell cars could one day challenge electric cars — but only if more stations are built to fuel them. Honda, Toyota and Hyundai have leased a few hundred fuel cell vehicles. But for now, those leases are limited to California, which is home to most of the 34 public hydrogen fueling stations in the U.S. Undaunted, automakers are investing heavily in the technology. General Motors and Honda are collaborating on a fuel cell system due out by 2020. Hyundai will introduce a longer-range fuel cell SUV next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro CITIES
Your essential urban intelligence

PHILOSOPHER CAT by Jason Logan

BLUEPRINT by Genna Buck/Metro

Turn your 'hood into a habitat

Cities are awesome places for people, but we share them with animals and plants — and we've been bad neighbours. Two-thirds of the Earth's wildlife has disappeared since 1970, according to the World Wildlife Fund, and urbanization is a big culprit. The situation is far from hopeless, however.

Here's how you can turn your garden, and your whole neighbourhood, into a place native plants and animals can really dig.

CATALOGUE

Walk around your yard/back alley/anywhere plants grow. Do you see pollinators like butterflies or bees, or natural recyclers like worms? You can keep the diversity you have and attract species you want by installing a bird feeder or toad house.

CUSTOMIZE

Before bringing home plants or seeds, find out what your garden can grow. What kind of soil do you have (rocky, sandy, clay?) and how deep is it? How much sun does your garden get? Don't get too hung up on appearance; some needed species aren't always the prettiest. And apartment dwellers, take note: Every little bit helps, including plants in window boxes or on your balcony.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY

You've made a plan. Now all that's left is the messy, fun part.
In Vancouver, try these native species to spruce up your garden:

- Arbutus
- Raspberries
- Idaho blue-eyed grass
- Western dogwood

GROW A TEAM

Many urban neighbourhoods have a local horticultural society or association of master gardeners to offer help and support. Swap seeds, share tips, and commit collectively to building a habitat for a species you're interested in protecting. If there isn't a group in your neighbourhood, consider starting one.

EVICT ALIENS

See plants growing like weeds? They probably are. As much as it feels like murder, invaders need to go. Depending on how extensive the infestation, you might need professional help. The WWF maintains a most-wanted list of invaders across Canada, which can help you tell friends from foes.

WORD ON THE STREET by Wanyee Li/Metro

Cities are hiring masters of disaster to tackle tomorrow's troubles

Katie McPherson is one of four chief resilience officers in Canada. VANCOUVER.CA

Four Canadian cities have appointed chief resilience officers, or plan to, this year after making it into the 100 Resilient Cities Network, a project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal will have access to millions of dollars worth of support and funding that aims to help urban areas deal with shocks such as natural disasters as well as growing pressures like poverty and transit vulnerabilities.

The CRO will be in charge of co-ordinating resources and carrying out a resiliency strategy unique to each region.

"We're looking for a respected person who gets the fact that the solutions to these problems are going to come from collaboration," Toronto Mayor John Tory told Metro when that city was announced as a recipient last spring.

Resiliency priorities will be different for every city. In Vancouver, officials have said housing affordability is on the agenda while Toronto has already pointed to congestion as one of the issues it plans to tackle.

Both Calgary and Montreal say their resiliency strategies will focus on protecting residents from extreme weather events such as the 2013 Calgary flood.

Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal have already appointed their CROs, all of which are existing civil servants, including Katie McPherson, Vancouver's manager of emergency management and Calgary's Brad Stevens, the deputy city manager.

Toronto says it plans to fill the two-year position by September.

McPherson says the position will help Vancouver "elevate and share" existing work. It also allows cities to "achieve big pieces of work that we can't do alone," she said when Vancouver announced her appointment.

PUBLIC WORKS
The week in urbanism

SACRED SUDS
Pope Francis has opened a free laundromat in Rome as a service for the city's homeless. The spot offers the basics, from washers and dryers to irons and detergent. It's part of a series of initiatives, including barbershops and showers, the pontiff has launched to help people on society's margins.

PEOPLE POWER
In San Francisco, citizens fed up waiting for city hall to step in added pylons and planters to an intersection to force cars to slow down when turning corners.

CITY CHAMP Metro's Citybuilder of the week

Paul Bell, a Winnipeg-based urban planning student, just helped launch a weekly meet-up called Urban Brew, where anyone with thoughts on cities can chat urbanism over pints.
@iampaulbell

URBAN DICTIONARY

DEFINITION
To **daylight** an intersection is to ban cars and delivery trucks from parking too close to the crossing, opening up sight lines for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Crossing Main and Pine streets no longer scares the living daylights out of Tina since the city **daylighted** the intersection.

metro Your essential daily news
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metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

"My way of dealing with it was sticking my head in the sand, refusing to ever think about my mum, because why would that help?"
Prince Harry talks about his grief, says only counselling helped

Where Canadian film is headed

It's Canadian Film Day on Wednesday, a time to celebrate our filmmakers and have a hard look at our home-grown industry. We asked some of our brightest: What is the future of the biz? From Bonavista to Vancouver Island, from the Arctic Circle to the Great Lakes, here are their thoughts. **RICHARD CROUSE/FOR METRO**

Very targeted content on digital platforms

"One thing for sure is on-demand and very targeted content," says director April Mullen on the future of CanCon film. "Basically, audiences are dictating on which platform they want to consume content." Mullen, whose film **Below Her Mouth** hits theatres and VOD simultaneously on April 28, says while digital platforms are "not as profitable as I'm sure they might be in the future," she's adds that, "there's always room for innovative content, in all forms, and so much is possible for storytellers to breakthrough with the technology available nowadays."

More and better streaming options

"The future," says John Barnard, a Winnipeg based director, "holds the possibility for more and better streaming options that pay for content and are reliable enough to be bankable. People have been saying this for years but now everyone actually has the box attached to their TV." Barnard's film **Menorca opens April 21**. He's pictured here with two of the film's stars, Tammy Gillis and Sheila Campbell.

The rise of VOD

"Filmmakers need to abandon the idea of, 'I want my film in the cinema,'" said Amal director **Richie Mehta**. "Now I'm very comfortable if I make a film and it goes straight to VOD."

Mehta notes the scope of Canadian film has expanded. Globalization and the accessibility offered by VOD technology has created a borderless audience for our films. "I'm not sure that people around the world know they are watching Canadian films. Which is kind of interesting because people are watching them."

Films on our own terms

Along with a changing distribution system comes a new attitude expressed by Montreal-born director **Joey Klein**, whose film The Other Half starring Tatiana Maslany was released earlier this year. "People are making films more on their own terms now; less about the idea of what a movie should be per our neighbours to the south, and more what a film could be given the resources we have."

New metrics for success

Streaming and VOD can expose domestic films to potential new audiences here in Canada and worldwide, offering up new metrics in determining a movie's commercial value.

"At an information session this month, Telefilm staff said they will be placing less emphasis on box office as a measure of success," said Maritime filmmaker **Thom Fitzgerald** who directed Cloudburst, a 2013 dramedy about an elderly lesbian American couple who move to Canada to get married.

Sarah Blakely, husband Curtis and their son outside their three-bedroom home. They recently sold the house for more than $1 million and now expect to live mortgage-free. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto sellouts are ready to move

HOUSING

Homeowners packing up in the face of uncertainty

Sarah Blakely recalls feeling some trepidation when she and her husband shelled out more than $300,000 for a modest 1 1/2-storey house in a less-desirable part of Toronto.

Seven years later, they found themselves on the right side of a hot housing market, with values tripling in a 'hood suddenly considered up-and-coming for young families seeking detached homes.

They recently sold that renovated three-bedroom for more than $1 million and now expect to live mortgage-free in a four-bedroom purchase in their hometown of Ottawa.

The 34-year-old Blakely says it made sense to cash out of a city that was draining their finances, energy and family time.

"My husband and I saw an opportunity to take advantage of the recent gains in real estate and to move to a less expensive city to live mortgage-free, support our savings for retirement and also to be closer to family," says Blakely, whose new home has nearly twice the square footage.

Other buyers are looking even farther afield, outside of Ontario. It's part of a growing trend of families moving far away from their too-hot housing markets — one that real estate agents in places like the Maritimes are looking to capitalize on.

Remember that relatively inexpensive Nova Scotia mansion that dominated Facebook last month? Agent Wanda Graves of Eastern Valley Real Estate says it's sparked more inquiries from Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and B.C. house hunters suddenly hip to Eastern Canada's charms.

Nova Scotia sellers are taking notice, and are marketing to out-of-province buyers now considered increasingly likely to make an offer.

"They know that there are buyers out there and now it's, 'How do we reach them?"' says Graves.

Before selling for $455,000, the mansion in Newport Landing, N.S., drew more than one million views on her company's website and 36,000 shares on Facebook.

It's a story Vancouver real estate agent Melissa Wu knows well.

Years of record-setting sales saw Vancouver homeowners cash out for smaller markets with more space.

But that changed after the B.C. government introduced a 15 per cent foreign buyers' tax last summer, which Wu says especially soured interest in west Vancouver luxury homes priced at more than $4 million.

She advises Toronto homeowners thinking of selling to take advantage while they can.

"There's always a shift coming in," she says of this hot market. "Sell before it corrects."

Blakey and her family may have taken action at just the right time.

Blakely's real estate agent Josie Stern says the Toronto market appears to be cooling, and doubts Blakely could fetch that same jackpot sale today.

"A little bit of air has been let out of the bubble," she says.

Many buyers and sellers are waiting to see what will come of today's scheduled meeting between Finance Minister Bill Morneau, Ontario Finance Minister Charles Sousa and Toronto Mayor John Tory, who are expected to discuss ways to rein in Toronto's hot housing market.

Meanwhile, the Ontario government is promising to announce affordability measures soon.

Stern says some buyers are delaying their purchase in anticipation of possible fixes.

"Buyers have been in such a stressful situation for so long that now they think somebody is going to save them and they're waiting," says Stern. "They've dug their heels in, they're tired of competition and then there's those that are still proceeding, but there's been quite a big pullback from buyers."

Sellers who've bought new homes are rushing to list their old property, she adds, but many are not getting the high bids seen a month ago.

The Toronto market has been astonishing, with the average sale in the Greater Toronto Area skyrocketing last month to $916,567. That's up 33.2 per cent from a year ago.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROMANCE

Mixing mobile courtship and the rich and famous

Amy Schumer met her boyfriend Ben Hanisch on a dating app "that attracted a lot of celebrity members," she wrote in her book, which sounds a lot like Raya. INSTAGRAM

Most online daters don't need another reason to feel unwanted in the demoralizing world of mobile courtship.

But now there's a secret stem of invite-only apps the dating majority aren't allowed to join.

Tinder Select, Bumble VIBee, Luxy and Raya are the cafeteria mean girls in the high school of online dating. They operate under exclusive and exclusionary language — their members are VIPs and among the "select" few — because these aren't regular dating apps, these are cool dating apps.

Little is known about their inner workings since access is conditional. On Tinder Select, it appears high rankings in an unknown scoring system is required. On Raya, an immense Instagram following bolsters a first-rate application. On Luxy, a verified income among the one per cent is preferred. These apps represent the growing stratification of online dating in which the beautiful, rich and famous are plucked from the crowd to mingle in their own exclusive circles.

"It's almost like being granted admission into a secret club," says tech analyst Carmi Levy in London, Ont. "No one quite knows what criteria are being used to decide when that door will swing open, but we all secretly hope that we'll be at the front of the line when that actually happens. So we continue to log in and we continue to do the things that will advance us to the front of that line."

> **It's ... like being granted admission into a secret club.**
> Carmi Levy

But what will advance users isn't clear, especially where Tinder and Bumble are concerned, since spokespeople refuse to comment. Tinder Select, the newest of the bunch, has been around since at least September. In an online Reddit message board devoted to discussing Tinder, some users wondered what the slick blue "S" meant on their screens and assumed it was an elite version of the app. It seemed they'd been added to the app unknowingly, based on some hidden algorithm.

"I'll pay anyone $50 for an invite," wrote one commenter.

Another mused: "Isn't this eugenics?"

Tinder Select appears as a special tab on the regular app where users can match with others who have been granted access and nominate friends, according to screenshots that have circulated online. They can also switch back at will to the regular pool of suitors who aren't part of the in crowd.

Some speculate that Tinder's means of selection might be through the elusive "Elo Score" ranking of a user's "desirability," which CEO Sean Rad told magazine Fast Company does not factor in physical attractiveness or how many swipes right (thumbs up) a user receives.

"It's very complicated," he said. "It took us two-and-a-half months just to build the algorithm because a lot of factors go into it."

On Bumble, the extra tab called VIBee doesn't just expand the app's devotion to this whole bee theme — it's meant as a gift for the "best-behaved users." But like Tinder, it's unclear what that means. Bumble was unable to provide more information, but they call VIBee a curated digital social club." It's relaunching "soon" after a brief hiatus.

Experts aren't surprised mobile courtship has come to this. Dating apps encourage a kind of "anarchic mixing" at first, says Moira Weigel, author of Labor of Love: The Invention of Dating.

And then they bring in the "class-sorting mechanisms."

"We want to believe that you could fall in love with anybody, and for it to be pure it should be untainted by material interest," Weigel says. "This is a fantasy."

And a historically recent fantasy, she says. Jane Austen-era men and women wouldn't dream of meeting a stranger who reached for the same book on the shelf in a used bookstore.

"Often, dating has been mediated through social institutions that tend to select for certain kinds of people over others," Weigel says. But the passerby love affair has become the romanticized ideal, leading to a constant "push-pull between fantasy and reality," exemplified by dating apps that permit love among strangers but also allow users to sort by income level.

On "luxury millionaire dating app" Luxy, access is granted to anyone until users want to talk to someone. There's an $83.99 monthly fee to speak with users whose profiles list their favourite luxury brands next to their verified incomes.

While Weigel thinks the exclusive apps are "elitist" and "explicitly classist," others see the good in them. Like Toronto therapist and relationship expert Kimberly Moffit.

"I'm a huge fan of doing things online that are going to get you close to love," she says. "It's a way for people to find people like them that may share the same values."

Values like fame. There's even an exclusive celebs-only dating app, Musician John Mayer said he doesn't go out much but does "fiddle around on an exclusive dating app," though said app goes unnamed, as it does in The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo, comedian Amy Schumer's 2016 memoir. It was later outed by frank tweeter-model Chrissy Teigen: "it's called Raya," she wrote in July.

Raya, meant for people in the "creative industries," asks users to submit an application to join its dating circle where it's all about who you know: "Your application is primarily scored based upon your referrals and your connection to current members of the Raya community," the screen read when a Star reporter attempted to join (the application was put on a "waiting list").

For now, these apps are like car dealerships with fancy models in the back corner, Levy says, where you can look but not get a test drive. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

metro SPORTS

Raptor Serge Ibaka hasn't practised since spraining his ankle in Toronto's Game 1 loss to Milwaukee Saturday but expects to play in Game 2 Tuesday

Senators forward Bobby Ryan scores against Bruins goaltender Tuukka Rask on Monday night. JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

OTTAWA-BOSTON

Sens surge to series lead on Ryan goal

Bobby Ryan took a punch in overtime, then delivered one of his own to win it.

Ryan scored the winner on a power play 5:43 into overtime as the Ottawa Senators beat the Boston Bruins 4-3 on Monday night to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference quarter-final series.

Ryan tipped the puck past Rask off a pass from Kyle Turris. Ottawa was awarded the man advantage when Boston's Riley Nash was whistled for roughing 4:38 into overtime after throwing a punch at Ryan.

"I always say that you make your money during the season, but you make your reputation in the playoffs, and right now he's showing everybody that he's a gamer," Senators coach Guy Boucher said of Ryan.

The penalty on Nash drew the ire of the sellout TD Garden crowd of 17,565, as well as Bruins interim coach Bruce Cassidy.

GAME 3 in Boston

4	3
SENATORS	BRUINS

"Demoralizing and disappointing," Cassidy said. "There's probably a lot more words, but they called it. Once they called it, it's our job to kill."

Mike Hoffman scored two goals and Derick Brassard added another for the Senators. Craig Anderson made 17 saves.

"It feels incredible and we took home-ice back and that's what's important," Ryan said.

Noel Acciari, David Backes and David Pastrnak scored for the Bruins while Tuukka Rask had 28 stops.

Game 4 is Wednesday in Boston. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs giving Caps all they can handle

Maple Leafs centre Tyler Bozak celebrates his game-winning goal against the Capitals with Nazem Kadri, right, and Morgan Rielly on Monday night. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORONTO-WASHINGTON

Young squad in driver's seat with latest overtime win

The Maple Leafs think they could just topple a giant in the first round.

They scored their second straight overtime victory on Monday night, downing the Washington Capitals 4-3 in front of an electric Air Canada Centre crowd. Toronto now leads the best-of-seven series 2-1, suddenly with the upper hand on the best team in hockey and starting to believe in its upset potential.

"That's been the feeling the whole time," 23-year-old defenceman Morgan Rielly said. "So that hasn't changed."

Tyler Bozak scored the overtime winner after the Leafs dug out from deficits of 2-0 and 3-1, controlling large swaths of play against a team that piled up 55 wins and 118 points during the regular season. While the 31-year-old Bozak and a handful of veterans showed well, it was again the performance of youth that shone brightest.

The rookie trio of Auston Matthews, William Nylander and Zach Hyman proved almost unstoppable in Game 3 — up over 70 per cent puck possession. Matthews broke his brief playoff dry spell with a goal, an assist and six shots (more than the first two games combined) while Nylander scored and managed nine shot attempts.

Hyman chased down the loose puck that led to Nylander's first of the post-season and then drew the penalty that led to Bozak's game-winner.

GAME 3 in Toronto

4	3
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	

"All those guys have probably had a ton of pressure on them their whole lives," Bozak said. "They've probably always been the best player and the best player on their teams and have always had the pressure to play well. They're used to it so it doesn't faze them and you can see that when they're out there playing."

Nazem Kadri also scored for Toronto and Frederik Andersen made 23 saves.

Alex Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom and Evgeny Kuznetsov all scored for the Caps while Braden Holtby gave up four goals on 28 shots. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cavaliers hold off Pacers to double lead

NBA PLAYOFFS

Irving and Love do damage as Cleveland make it 2-0 in series

Kyrie Irving scored 37 points, Kevin Love added 27 and the Cleveland Cavaliers avoided another fourth-quarter collapse in Game 2, beating the Indiana Pacers 117-111 on Monday night to take a 2-0 lead in the series.

After squeaking out the opener by a point, LeBron James and Co. showed more intensity on defence, more swagger in general and won their 10th straight first-round game over the past three seasons.

However, they nearly blew an 18-point lead in the fourth as the Pacers got within four before Cleveland closed it out at the line.

James added 10 rebounds and seven assists, but had eight of Cleveland's 19 turnovers.

Game 3 is Thursday night.

Paul George scored 32 and Jeff Teague 23 for Indiana, which showed more fight, but now has a steep hill to climb to get back in the series. Cleveland is 12-0 when starting 2-0 in the post-season.

The Cavs vowed they would play better after their near-disaster in Game 1 and they backed up their talk, delivering the kind of performance that was routine last season but very rare in 2017.

LeBron James passes out of coverage on Monday night in Cleveland. GETTY IMAGES

Love scored 10 straight and drew a charging foul on Lance Stephenson in a span of two minutes as the Cavs opened an 89-70 lead. Irving closed the quarter by draining a three-pointer over Stephenson and the All-Star made sure Indiana's antagonizing guard knew about it, yapping in his direction long after the horn sounded. The Cavs still led 109-91 with 6:09 left, but the Pacers ripped off 13 straight points and were within 113-109 when George hit a three-pointer with 20 seconds left.

It continued a disturbing trend for the Cavs, who have been giving up late, big leads with regularity.

The other hitch for Cleveland was that starting guard J.R. Smith didn't play in the second half because of a left hamstring injury. Iman Shumpert, who sat the opener, replaced Smith and played 20 solid minutes.

Despite losing the opener, Pacers coach Nate McMillian insisted his team hadn't lost any confidence. "We believe," he said. "We came in believing, we still believe."

It just got a lot harder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GAME 2 In Cleveland

117	111

RUGBY

Historic sevens win for Canada in Asia

Canada made men's rugby sevens history Sunday, winning a Cup final on the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Series for the first time.

And the Canadians did it the hard way at the Singapore Sevens, defeating No. 4 New Zealand 26-14 and No. 3 England 17-5 before dispatching the fifth-ranked U.S. Eagles 26-19 in the final.

Series leader South Africa and No. 2 Fiji were upset in the quarter-finals.

Canada, which came into the weekend ranked ninth in the standings, raced into a 19-0 lead in the final but the Eagles roared back with 19 points of their own before Lucas Hammond scored the winning try with less than two minutes remaining.

The tournament victory came in Canada's 140th event on the circuit.

The Canadians said a 35-7 thumping at the hands of Olympic champion Fiji on Saturday — their only loss in six games — had proved to be a turning point.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Lynn helps Cardinals end skid and edge Pittsburgh

Lance Lynn pitched seven shutout innings, Kolten Wong homered and the St. Louis Cardinals stopped a three-game losing streak, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 2-1 Monday night.

The Cardinals, who had lost six of seven, are 4-9 and still have the worst record in the NL. Pittsburgh had won three in a row before losing in a game that took only two hours, 14 minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luck's return date not set for Indianapolis Colts

Andrew Luck isn't sure when he'll start throwing again and won't set a timetable for his return from shoulder surgery.

The Indianapolis Colts starting quarterback isn't expected to do much — if any — work during the team's off-season workouts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ozil and Sanchez keep Arsenal's top-4 hopes alive

Alexis Sanchez and Mesut Ozil secured Arsenal's first English Premier League win on the road in three months on Monday, with the 2-1 victory at Middlesbrough reviving the London club's tough pursuit of Champions League qualification.

Sanchez curled in a free kick before halftime that was cancelled out by Alvaro Negredo in the second half. Aaron Ramsey provided the lay off for Ozil to net the winner.

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Spicy Apple Ginger Milkshake

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Wake up to the smoothie equivalent of a piece of sweet and spicy apple pie.

Ready in 5 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt
- 1 Tbsp pumpkin butter
- 1/2 tsp fresh, grated ginger
- 1 Gala Apple, cut into slices
- 1 tsp maple syrup

Directions
1. Place milk, yogurt, pumpkin butter, maple syrup and apple into a blender and then pulse until apple is finely blended. Add ginger and pulse until blended. Pour and serve.

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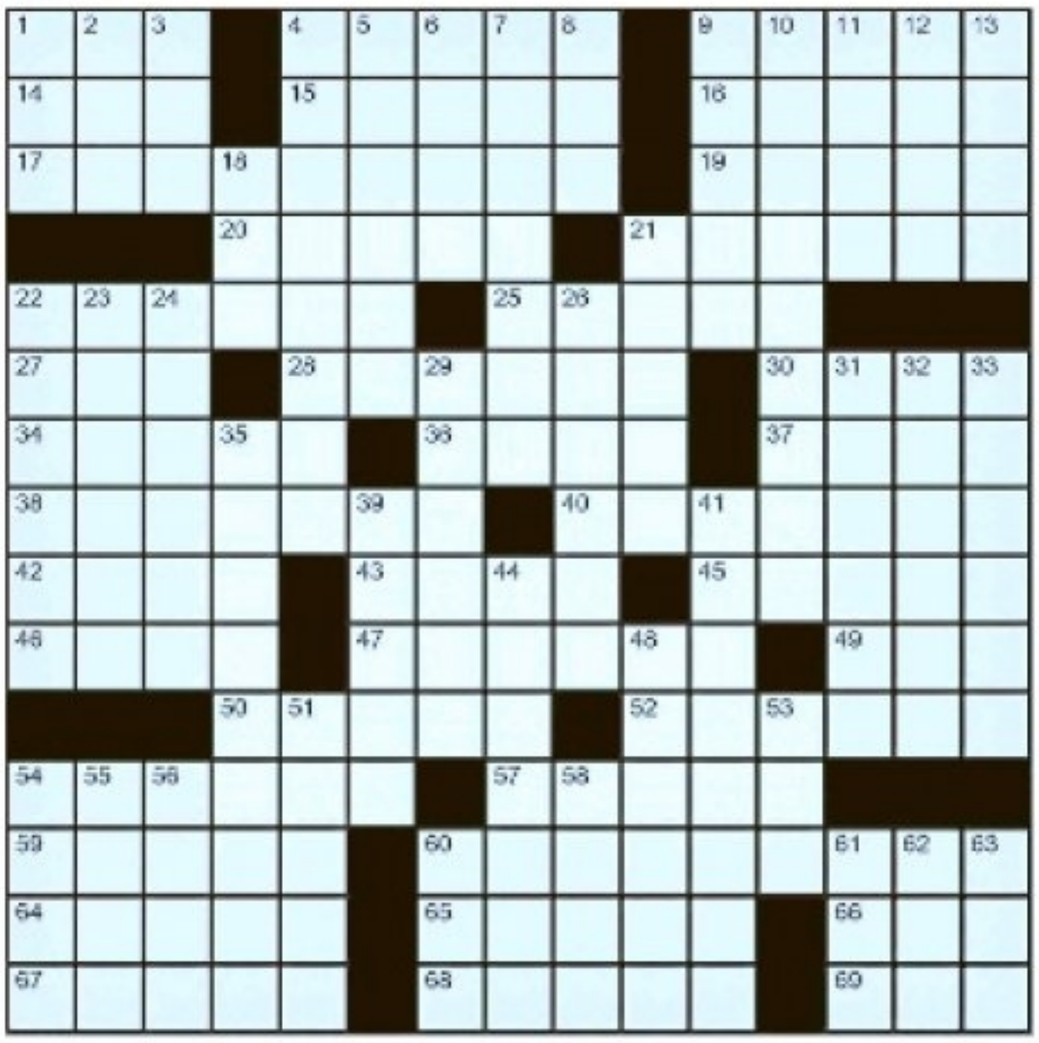
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. _ excellence
4. Sea _ (Furry aquatic animal)
9. Hawk's swift descent
14. Alleyway creature
15. Switzerland's variant-spelled capital city
16. Boldness
17. The Alberta town of Vegreville is home to the world's largest what?: 2 wds.
19. Mary-Kate _
20. Gastric trouble
21. : ...and : : :
22. Taxi driver
25. Diminish
27. Garlic, in a Quebec City restaurant
28. Almond fragment
30. Wild guess
34. Looseness in the line
36. _ tide
37. Volcanic flow
38. _ spray can
40. Recorded, as a wedding
42. Traffic jam sound!
43. Quote
45. Looking at
46. Mr. Warhol
47. Newspaper magnate, William Randolph _ (b.1863 - d.1951)
49. Litigate
50. Already-shown TV show
52. One coming up with a new word, say
54. Instigate
57. Upper Fort _ (Historical site in Manitoba)
59. "The Lady in Red" by Chris de _
60. Adorned, such as the Springtime object at #17-Across
64. "My Own Private _" (1991)
65. Full of life
66. "The Wonder Years" actress, Olivia d'_
67. They're owed
68. Portended
69. UK network

DOWN
1. Grand-_, Nova Scotia
2. US driving org.
3. Lefts opp.
4. Pyramid-top pillars
5. Toyota model of yore
6. _-planting ceremony
7. Do a jeweller's work at times
8. Rule, for short
9. Nose-in-the-air type
10. Church-_ Village, in Toronto
11. Approximately: 2 wds.
12. Kitchen appliance
13. Writes
18. Jacuzzi, for one
21. Wrist bones
22. Kind of melon
23. Helen, in Ireland
24. Played the radio too loudly
26. Canuck creature
29. Replacing/substituting: 2 wds.
31. The Way philosophy
32. _ Road (Toronto thoroughfare)
33. Tommy Brock, in Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Mr. Tod
35. Writer's concern
39. Rusty hue
41. Dissuaded
44. Hybrid citrus fruit
48. Endeavoured
51. Cultural standards
53. Shag rug
54. Footnote abbr.
55. Hosiery shade
56. Zodiac creature
58. _ wash jeans
60. Tap on
61. Bar bill
62. Musicals lyricist Fred
63. Grumpy's work mate

✷ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a tricky day. You are advised to avoid a showdown with a parent, boss or authority figure. (This includes the police.) Things are too unpredictable!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Steer clear of controversial subjects like racial issues, politics and religion, because this is a potentially explosive day. Expect travel plans to change or be canceled or delayed.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Double-check all financial transactions related to wills, inheritances, taxes, debt and shared property. Something might be out of whack. Don't become caught off guard!

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Do not fall into intense discussions or arguments with partners or close friends today. Steer clear of these. In a nanosecond, someone might be overheated or too emotional.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Be patient with co-workers today, because equipment breakdowns and delays can trigger arguments or moments of frustration. Chill out. Be supportive, no matter what happens.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an accident-prone day for your kids so be extra vigilant. It's also a dicey day for romance, so be aware of this as well. Patience is your best virtue.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Small appliances might break down today, or minor breakages could occur. That's because something is going to interrupt your home routine. Be patient with family members in order to avoid

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is an accident-prone day for you, so pay attention to everything you say and do. Don't try to convince others to agree with your point of view. Easy does it.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Something to do with your cash flow, money or possessions is unpredictable today. Make sure you know what's happening. Keep your eyes open.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Avoid arguments with others today, because this is a potentially explosive day. People are on edge. Plus, unpredictable things are happening! It's a dicey combo.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There's an undercurrent of uncertainty to whatever you do today; you can feel it. A lot of other people can feel it as well. Just be cool.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A powerful person might seek you out today and then lean on you about something. This could erupt into an argument. You don't need this, so run the other way!

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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WEEKEND ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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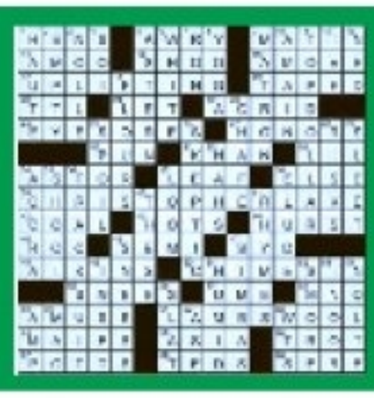

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4	2	8	9	3	1	7	5	6
6	3	4	7	8	9	1	2	5
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